

In the Claims:

1. (currently amended) A two-part buckle including an auxiliary locking feature comprising:

a female buckle part including belt or strap receiving portion, and a body portion defining a recess for receiving a mating portion of a male buckle part and a pair of edge recesses and a front panel having an aperture therein completely surrounded by said front panel;

a male buckle part including a belt or strap receiving portion, and a female buckle engaging part,

a cantilevered resilient member formed integrally with said male buckle part located within the recess of said female part when said buckle is engaged;

said female buckle engaging part of said male buckle part including a pair of flexible prongs for insertion into the edge recesses of said female part and for engaging said female part to secure the buckle parts together;

said prongs being accessible through said edge recesses for manually releasing said prongs to allow said male and female buckle parts to separate; and

a manually controlled button on said resilient member normally positioned in said aperture and accessible for manual operation but free from latching engagement with the body portion of said female buckle part, said resilient member carrying means for engaging the prongs of said male buckle part for selectively preventing the flexing of said prongs and release of said buckle parts, wherein said means which normally

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engage said prongs releases said prongs upon operation of said button.

2. (cancelled)

3. (previously presented) A two-part buckle in accordance with claim 1 wherein the surface of said button is substantially flush with said front panel.

Claims 4-7 (cancelled)

8. (previously presented) A two-part buckle in accordance with claim 1 wherein said cantilevered resilient member is located between said prongs and carrying said button.

9. (previously presented) A two-part buckle in accordance with Claim 8 wherein said button is carried by said cantilevered resilient member and operational to deflect said resilient member away from said prongs to allow said prongs to flex and to release the buckle parts.

10. (previously presented) A two-part buckle in accordance with claim 1 wherein said cantilevered resilient member is mounted for movement with respect to said prongs to move from a first prong locking position to a second prong unlocking position in response to manual operation of said button.

Claims 11-13 (cancelled)

14. (currently amended) A two-part plastic buckle comprising;
a female part including a belt attachment loop at one end and a male part receiving opening at the opposite end from said belt attachment loop;

said female part having a front face including an aperture therein completely surrounded by said front face, a rear face and a pair of edges;

said female part defining a pair of recesses one in each of said edges communicating with said male part receiving opening;

a male part including a belt attachment loop at one end and a pair of prongs at the opposite end dimensioned to enter said male part receiving opening in said female part and for engaging said recesses to secure said male and female parts together and to flex under finger pressure to release said male and female parts; and a cantilevered resilient member formed integrally with said male part located between said prongs;

said buckle further including means forming part of said cantilevered

resilient member normally engaging said prongs when said prongs are positioned to secure said male and female parts together and for preventing the prongs from releasing said male and female parts; said cantilevered resilient member further including manually operable means normally positioned in said aperture and accessible for manual operation but free of latching engagement with said female part for disengaging said prong release preventing means.

15. (currently amended) A two-part plastic buckle comprising:

a female part including a belt attachment loop, an opening at the opposite end from said belt attachment loop, a front face including an aperture completely surrounded by said front face, a rear face and a pair of edges, each of said edges including a recess communicating with said opening;

a male part including a belt attachment loop and a pair of prongs dimensioned to enter the opening of said female part, each of said pair of prongs including a catch engaging one of said recesses to secure said male and female parts together, said prongs being adapted to flex under finger pressure to disengage said catches from said recesses to release said male and female parts; and a cantilevered tongue located between said prongs;

said cantilevered tongue further including a member normally engaging said prongs when said prongs are positioned to secure the male and female parts together to prevent said prongs from releasing said male and female parts; and

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a button integrally formed with said cantilevered tongue and normally positioned in said aperture for disengaging said prong engaging member from said prongs, said button being accessible for manual operation but free from latching engagement with said female part.